

Study guide
Master's programme
Human Geography
2021-2022



Universiteit Utrecht

Faculty of Geosciences

Addresses

The **visiting address** of the faculty is:

Faculty of Geosciences
Princetonlaan 8a,
3584 CB Utrecht
Tel. +31 30 253 7210, Internet: www.uu.nl/geo

The **postal address** of the faculty is:

Faculty of Geosciences
PO Box 80.115
3508 TC Utrecht
The Netherlands

The desk of **Student Affairs Geosciences**:

Victor J. Koningsbergergebouw, first floor
[More information and opening hours](#)
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 9559
E-mail: studentaffairs.geo@uu.nl

Secretariat Human Geography and Spatial Planning

Room 6.96, floor 6, Vening Meinesz
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 1399

The **V.U.G.S. - study association** of human geographers and planners Utrecht

Buyt Ballotgebouw, rooms 266 & 267
Princetonplein 5
3584 CC Utrecht
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 2789
E-mail: Vugs@uu.nl, Internet: <http://vugs.uu.nl>

European Geography Association (EGEA), for students and young geographers

Buyt Ballotgebouw, room 274
Princetonplein 5
3584 CC Utrecht
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 9708
E-mail: Egea@uu.nl, Internet: <http://www.egea.eu/entity/utrecht>

The **Examinations Board** can be contacted through examencommissie.geo@uu.nl. Hard copy paperwork can be handed in at the Student Affairs Desk (Victor J. Koningsbergergebouw, floor 1).

You can hand in your hard copy assignments at the reception of Vening Meinesz. Be sure to clearly state your name and the lecturer's name.

Preface

For most students the Master's is the final stage of a long educational career. It will be also the shortest one, lasting only one or two years. It is the last step on your way to a professional career. This consideration dictates the character of the Master's program. The program starts with a consolidation and update of the students' knowledge already acquired from earlier specializations, but most time is dedicated to the application of academic research in the professional field, sometimes in combination with an internship.

The Master's programs of the Department of Human Geography and Planning are coordinated by the Academic School Human Geography and Planning.

In this guide you will find specific information about your Master's program. Information about services, the faculty, the education and examination regulation and the schedule of all the courses in the different Master's programs can be found in the latter part of the guide.

I hope you will experience an inspiring and successful master year!

Dr G. Nijenhuis
Chair Academic School Human Geography and Planning

Teaching approach

Activating education is what the Academic School aims for. We believe that you can best activate your own learning process by carrying out individual and group assignments and exercises, participation in debates, and the application of methodology taught. As far as possible, work is carried out in small groups. Additionally, there is active support from lecturers, instructions, manuals and feedback about your performance. Feel free to ask questions and to engage in discussions with your peers and lecturers.

Active participation

The Academic School is committed to realize the maximum acquisition of knowledge, in cooperation with our students. All lecturers and support staff share a similar philosophy that if students are fully committed to their studies, individual courses can be successfully completed. The ground rules for "active participation" are as follows:

- We expect you to be present during all classes and activities. For compulsory classes and activities attendance is registered. The course manual spells out which classes and activities are compulsory. Be sure to inform yourself of this information.
- If your attendance in the compulsory sessions falls below 75 per cent, you lose the right to complete the course, irrespective of the reasons for your absence.
- Be sure to catch up individually if you have had to miss a class. Ask fellow students what was discussed in class and what is expected of you in terms of preparation for the next class.
- Absence during assessments is a serious matter. There is no automatic right to do a replacement test. A replacement test may be taken only if you have had to miss the test because of circumstances demonstrably beyond your control and if you have informed the lecturer immediately of your situation.
- Assignments must be handed in by the due date. If not, this will result in a fail (or a deduction of grade points).

Lectures

During lectures we ask you to take the following into account:

- A lecture usually comprises two sessions of 45 minutes with a 15-minute break in between.
- Be in time, and if not, be very silent in entering the room, if possible, through the back door.
- Listen carefully, do not disturb the lecture, take notes, it could be part of a test.
- Switch off your phone.
- Eating is not permitted.
- Attending the first lecture of a course is always compulsory.

Your opinion counts

The department is very interested in students' opinion about the programmes. We value the participation of students in the Faculty board, [the Education Committee](#) and the study association. For every course we ask participating students how they evaluate the course. This gives you the possibility to give your opinion in order to improve the quality of the programme.

[Complaints](#)

If you feel you have not been treated properly by someone employed by Utrecht University, or if you disagree with a decision that affects you personally, you can respond in a number of ways. To help you decide which response is most appropriate in your case, please consult [this overview](#).

Course registration explained

Academic periods

The academic year has four periods of nine to ten weeks.

| Period | Dates | Remarks |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 6 September 2021 - 14 November 2021 | |
| 2 | 15 November 2021 – 6 February 2022 | No classes in week 52 & week 1 |
| 3 | 7 February 2022 – 24 April 2022 | |
| 4 | 25 April 2022 – 17 July 2022 | |

Scheduling of courses

When choosing your courses in period 2, you should keep in mind that at Utrecht University each course is placed in a time slot. Lectures and seminars are scheduled within that slot. This enables you to easily combine courses (up to 15 EC), provided that they are in different timeslots. The time slots are:

A: Monday morning, Wednesday morning

B: Tuesday morning, Thursday afternoon

C: Monday afternoon, Thursday morning

D: Wednesday afternoon, Friday whole day

On Tuesday afternoon there are no scheduled lectures, but it can be used for individual discussions (with a lecturer).

During non-Covid times you can find the actual course schedules in [MyTimetable](#) or the MyUUapp four weeks before the courses begin. Check the studyguide and blackboard during period 1 and 2.

Course registration procedure

- You are required to register for every course via OSIRIS Student during the stipulated registration period (see below). The first period is an exception: students are automatically registered for the courses in this period.
- Per period you can register for a maximum of 15 EC (= fulltime workload). In exceptional cases it is allowed to take more than 15 EC. If you wish to do so, you will have to apply with a digital form (to be found on the students website) during the standard registration period.
- Timely registration will ensure placement in compulsory courses.
- You have a second chance to register for courses during the late registration days, however this only holds for courses where places are still available.
- Registration for an elective course does not guarantee placement. In case of over-registration, participants are selected at random or based on suitability. Depending on the nature of the course, either of these methods will be used to determine placement.
- If need be, you can formally drop a course up to two weeks after the courses started. This should be done through OSIRIS student (but please also inform your lecturer). If you quit a course at a later stage, a fail will be registered for this course.
- Please note that lecturers have no say in registration/deregistration. Should you have any questions, [Student Affairs Geosciences](#) is your first point of contact.
- A one-time registration is required for the Thesis and/or internship. This may be done throughout the year.

| For period | Registration dates | Late registration days |
|------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 31 May – 27 June 2021 | 23 and 24 August 2021 |
| 2 | 20 September – 3 October 2021 | 25 and 26 October 2021 |
| 3 | 1 November - 28 November 2021 | 24 and 25 January 2022 |
| 4 | 31 January t/m 27 February 2022 | 4 en 5 April 2022 |

Completion of courses

In every course there will be multiple assessments, so your final grade will not depend on a written exam only.

Should you fail a course, be aware that at the faculty of Geosciences certain conditions apply for supplementary tests.

- If the overall course result is between 4.00 and 5.49 before rounding and the student has made every effort to successfully complete the course, he/she will be given one opportunity to take a supplementary test. The lecturer will determine the form and content, as well as date and time, of the supplementary test. In case of a successful outcome the result of the course will be a 6, regardless of the grade obtained for the supplementary test.
- An average of less than 4.00 before rounding results in failure to complete the course without possibilities to repair the result. The entire course must be followed again.

The formal rules for successful completion of courses are found in the Education and Examination Regulations (O.E.R.).

'Every effort to successfully complete the course' means no absence for compulsory lectures and activities including tests, and assignments must have been handed in in time.

During a test you must be able to show your (digital) student card.

Typically, supplementary tests are scheduled in the third week of the next period.

| For period | Supplementary tests |
|------------|---------------------|
| 1 | week 48 |
| 2 | week 8 |
| 3 | week 19 |
| 4 | week 28 |

[Fraud and plagiarism](#)

Fraud and plagiarism will be strongly punished. Details are stipulated in the Education and Examination Regulations (O.E.R.). It is intolerable to submit work that has been done by someone else, to copy from sources without due acknowledgement and so on. A lecturer must report instances of fraud and plagiarism to the Examinations Board which can impose severe penalties.

Master's programme Human Geography

Programme coordinator: [Dr Irina van Aalst](#)

Student Website Human Geography: <https://students.uu.nl/en/geo/human-geography>

Cities and urban regions: opportunities and concerns

Urban regions are bubbling, dynamic places where people get together and generate new ideas. They are breeding grounds for innovation and economic growth. Many people still move to the city, chasing their dreams: for a challenging career, a pleasant living environment, all the amenities within easy reach. And besides the local residents, large numbers of tourists visit the city seeking an entertaining stay.

The continuous urban growth in an increasingly global economy has both winners and losers. On the one hand, there are start-ups that expand to become large companies. While on the other hand, there are traditional companies that succumb to global competition. How can we explain success and failure?

Urban growth also leads to a great diversity of people and lifestyles, which ensure thriving communities. Yet there are also places where spatial and social inequalities reveal themselves between communities. This results in unpleasant living environments and neighbourhoods in decline. How do you breathe new life into those communities?

In the Human Geography Master's programme you learn how urban and economic issues are interwoven. As a student of the Human Geography Master's, you will study the city and its economic developments from various academic perspectives and thematic angles, with an interdisciplinary approach.

Four tracks are offered:

- [Urban Geography: Neighbourhoods & Residential Dynamics](#)
- [Urban Geography: Daily Life & Public Spaces](#)
- [Economic Geography: Business & Location](#)
- [Economic Geography: Regional Development & Policy](#)

Joint programme and electives (also view the graphic on the page below)

The program starts with a condensed course Urban Futures, focusing on the interconnectedness between urban and economic geography. Urban future scenarios are explored from a scientific and practical perspective. This course includes a two-days fieldwork in the German Ruhr area. Later on (period 3), you will build on this course by doing a longer international excursion. In the first period, you will also take Advanced Urban Geography or Advanced Economic Geography as the academic and more theoretical basis of your Master's programme.

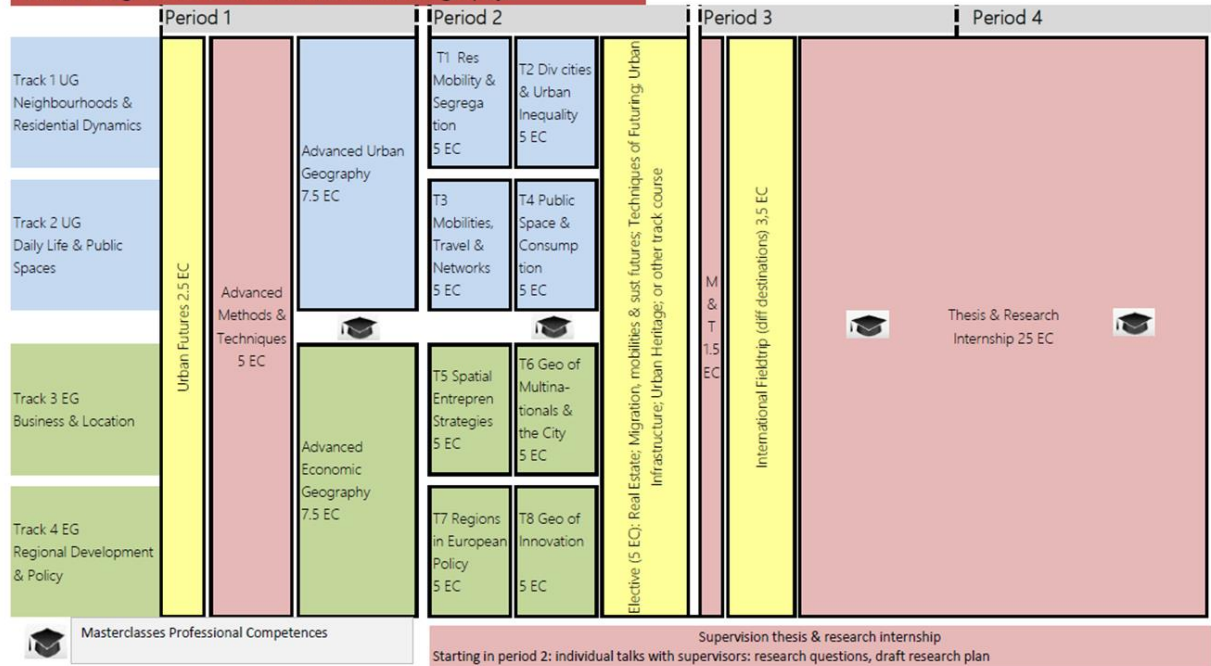
In the second period, you will take three courses of 5 ECTS. Two track courses will be offered for each track. In addition, you will select one elective course. This may be one of the formal, thematic electives or another track course.

Thesis, internship and research methodology

Your choice of graduation subject and, possibly, an accompanying research internship provide the best way for you to present yourself to future employers. The better part of your research project is planned to take place in period 3 and 4. In period 2 however, you start preparing by talking with supervisors and drafting a research plan. You can also conduct research abroad.

You will learn to master the relevant research methods and techniques in period 1 (Advanced Methods & Techniques) and in period 3, by means of an M&T specialization module that ties in with your research. Lastly, masterclasses on professional skills will be offered throughout the year.

Detailed degree structure Master Human Geography



Courses in the Master's Human Geography

| Period/ timeslot | Courses | EC |
|---------------------|---|--------|
| 1C | Urban Futures | 2.5 ec |
| 1B | Advanced Urban Geography or Advanced Economic Geography | 7.5 ec |
| 1D | Advanced Methods & Techniques | |
| | Masterclasses/Professional classes | 5 ec |
| | (you have to follow two track courses in this period) | |
| | <u>Track courses Urban Geography:</u> | 5 ec |
| 2AD | T1 Residential Mobility & Segregation | 5 ec |
| 2AD | T2 Diverse cities and Urban Inequality | |
| | | |
| 2CD | T3 Mobilities, Travel & Networks | 5 ec |
| 2CD | T4 Public Space & Consumption | 5 ec |
| | | |
| | <u>Track courses Economic Geography:</u> | |
| 2CD | T5 Spatial Entrepreneurial Strategies | 5 ec |
| 2BD | T6 Geographies of Multinationals and the City | 5 ec |
| | | |
| 2AD | T7 Regions in European Policy | 5 ec |
| 2AD | T8 T8 Geography of Innovation | 5 ec |
| | | |
| | <u>Elective courses</u> | |
| 2D | • Real Estate | 5 ec |
| 2D | • Healthy Cities | 5 ec |
| 2D | • Migration, Mobilities & Sustainable Futures | 5 ec |
| 2D | • Techniques of Futuring | 5 ec |
| 2D | • Urban Infrastructures | 5 ec |
| 2D | • Urban Heritage | 5 ec |
| | • other track course (in some cases permission is necessary from programme coordinator) | 5 ec |
| | | |
| | Masterclasses/Professional classes | |
| 3 | International Field Trip | 3.5 ec |
| | M&T Specializations | 1.5 ec |
| | Thesis & Research Internship | 25 ec |
| | Masterclasses/Professional classes | |
| 4 | Thesis & Research Internship | 25 ec |
| | Masterclasses/Professional classes | |

The labour market

Human geographers can be found in numerous public and private organisations in the field of urban and economic development. Positions held include consultants, advisors or researchers, who work on specific social or economic issues.

The programme has an extensive alumni network, which is also involved in teaching. Through guest lectures and practical assignments, you will discover what graduates do and start to get a sense of what you would like to do professionally.

Intended learning outcomes of the Master's programme Human Geography

A. *KNOWLEDGE; To assist students in developing an advanced academic knowledge and understanding that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context*

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. SOCIO-SPATIAL ISSUES | Have advanced knowledge and understanding of complexity, variation, dynamics and interdependence of socio-spatial structures, processes and behaviors in society |
| 2. CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES | Have advanced knowledge and understanding of the conditions for, the mechanisms underlying, and the effects of dynamic and interdependent spatial structures, processes, and behaviours |
| 3. INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT | Have knowledge about the international and intercultural aspects of socio-spatial issues |
| 4. DISCIPLINARY CONTEXT | Have advanced knowledge and understanding of the theory, nature, history, and methodology of Human Geography |
| 5. POLICY INTERVENTIONS | Have advanced knowledge and understanding of the interdependency between academic research and (policy) interventions and of the methods to critically assess research outcomes and (policy) interventions |

B. *METHODOLOGY; To teach students how to apply their knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study;*

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. DEVELOP RESEARCH PROPOSAL | Are able to independently and individually develop an original research proposal about a current complex societal or scientific problem related to the master, based on solid theoretical, practical, and societal arguments |
| 2. EMPIRICAL RESEARCH | Have the skills to both independently and in a team, organize and conduct an empirical research based on primary and secondary data collection, applying appropriate social and spatial research methodology, (design) methods and techniques |
| 3. CONCLUSIONS | Are able to validly interpret both data and research outcomes and to formulate conclusions and (policy) recommendations |
| 4. SOLUTIONS | Are able to apply knowledge by developing solutions to the research or societal problem studied both individually and in a (multidisciplinary) team of professionals with different expertise, and students with different international cultures and expertise |

C. *SOCIETAL APPLICATION; To teach students the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgments with incomplete or limited information, including reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments;*

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. INTEGRATE KNOWLEDGE AND HANDLE COMPLEXITY | Can integrate knowledge of the sub disciplines of Human Geography and relevant other disciplines and apply this in research and projects |
| 2. MAKING JUDGEMENTS | Based on the outcome of research or project work can make scientific judgements |
| 3. ETHICS (SCIENCE) | Work and act according to the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and the Code of Conduct Utrecht University |
| ETHICS (SOCIETY) | Understand the ethical issues faced in geography |
| 4. SOCIETAL IMPLICATIONS | Can indicate the societal and ethical implications of academic research and feel the need and responsibility to translate academic research in policy recommendations and to participate in public debates |
| 5. ACADEMIC ATTITUDE | Take on a critical academic stance and attitude in reflecting on both general and their peers' and own academic behaviour |

D. *COMMUNICATION; To teach students how to communicate their conclusions to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously;*

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | PRESENTATION AND COMMUNICATION Are able to clearly communicate the results of academic research of the analysis of both academic literature and empirical research in written and spoken manner to relevant societal actors, stakeholders or in a design project for a wider audience (citizens) |
| 2. | TARGET AUDIENCE Are able to appropriately address the audiences in presenting academic research findings or design, taking into account the interests and backgrounds of the audience members |
| 3. | ARGUMENTATION AND DISCUSSION Are able to critically discuss (preliminary) research findings or design of others (peers) and formulate positive peer-feedback (forward) based on sound arguments |
| 4. | PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION Are able to clearly communicate and convincingly defend both proposal, actions and results of research or design, with peers and with different stakeholders in a professional setting |

E. CRITICAL ACADEMIC ATTITUDE; To provide students with learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | UPDATE KNOWLEDGE Are capable of independently recognizing and following both current societal and scientific developments related to the master |
| 2. | INDEPENDENT AND CRITICAL Are able to independently plan, organize and conduct academic research and iteratively critically reflect on the choices made, the research process, progress and outcomes and makes changes accordingly |
| 3. | DISCIPLINARY VALUE Can work in both small and larger teams of (interdisciplinary) international students/ scholars, and recognize and communicate the contribution of (interdisciplinary) knowledge and skills in the issue studied |
| 4. | DISCIPLINARY CULTURE Know about academic research cultures in other disciplines and can relate them to the academic culture in the master |

Important contacts for students

[Master programme coordinator Human Geography](#)

[Find a lecturer](#)

[Student Affairs Faculty of Geosciences](#)

[Secretariat department Human Geography and Spatial Planning](#)

[Study advisor Human Geography and Spatial Planning](#)

[Board of examiners](#)

[International Office Faculty of Geosciences](#)

Important information for students/Where are ...? Services

[Attendance and effort requirements](#)

[Blackboard](#)

[Books, readers and printing](#)

[Buildings](#)

[Career Services UU](#)

[Complaints, objections and appeals](#)

[Department Human Geography and Spatial Planning](#)

[Disability or chronic illness](#)

[Education and examination regulation \(OER\)](#)

[Education committee](#)

[Blackboard](#)

[Faculty of Geosciences](#)

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[Library](#)

[Map collection](#)

[Nethur](#)

[Osiris Student](#)

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[Schedules](#)

[Student Service Centre \(UU for U\)](#)

[Study regulations](#)

[Student Statute](#)

Study associations

[V.U.G.S.](#)

[EGEA](#)

[Helix](#)

[U.A.V.](#)

Career Services

During your masterprogram you can find out what kind of job you would like after graduation. Find out what you like, where you are good at and what your possibilities are on the job market.

During your master you will gain a lot of geographical knowledge and skills and you will train the skills you need in your first job. While following courses, try to find out what topics you like, which skills you are good at and your interests and ambition. Within the course you will be able to explore the job market by attending guest lectures, meeting alumni, studying abroad or doing an internship. This will all help you to get an idea what is needed on the job market.

Career Services will help you as well towards your step to the job market: you can do online tests to find out what is important for you, follow workshops, meet a career officer and practice job-interviews. The once a year career event of Utrecht University will be held in February.

Check the website of your master program or www.uu.nl/careerservices. The Career Officer of the faculty of Geosciences is mrs.Franca Geerdes (f.geerdes@uu.nl)

2021-2022

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| 6 Sep 1 | 13-Sep 2 | 20-Sep 3 | 27-Sep 4 | 4-Oct 5 | 11-Oct 6 | 18-Oct 7 | 25-Oct 8 | 1-Nov 9 | education free |

MSc open
day

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15-Nov 1 | 22-Nov 2 | 29-Nov 3 | 6-Dec 4 | 13-Dec 5 | 20-Dec 6 | Xmas holiday | Xmas holiday | 10-Jan 8 | 17-Jan 9 | 24-Jan 10 | Education free |

Re-exam
P1

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 7-Feb 1 | 14-Feb 2 | 21-Feb 3 | 28-Feb 4 | 7-March 5 | 14-March 6 | 21-March 7 | 28-March 8 | 4-Apr 9 | Education free | Education free |

Re-exam
P2

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 25-Apr 1 | 2-May 2 | 9-May 3 | 16-May 4 | 23-May 5 | 30-May 6 | 6-June 7 | 13-June 8 | 20-June 9 | 27-June 10 | Education free | Re-exam P4 |

V.U.G.S.
symposium

Re-exam
P3

| | | | |
|----------------|---------|-----------|----------|
| Good Friday | week 15 | Friday | 15-04-22 |
| Easter | week 16 | Monday | 18-04-22 |
| Kings Day | week 17 | Wednesday | 27-04-22 |
| Liberation Day | week 18 | Thursday | 05-05-22 |
| Ascension Day | week 21 | Thursday | 26-05-22 |
| Pentecost | week 23 | Monday | 06-06-22 |